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# THE ORGANIZER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vol. 4, No. 8

Agriculture Local #2, UFWA

April 15, 1939

## UNION DEFENDS RIGHT OF WOMEN TO APPLY FOR JOB

Firing the opening gun in a campaign for equal job opportunities for women in Agriculture, Local 2 brought to the attention of the head of the Qualification and Training Section, a recent notice of a vacancy for an editorial clerk, sex "Male."

Knowing of at least one qualified female employee who wanted to apply for the job, Local 2 has challenged the judgment of the hiring officer in disqualifying women applicants for this type of position where sex is so obviously an irrelevant consideration. Success in this case will strike a vital blow at the unfair discrimination against women in Agriculture which confines them mainly to "dead-end" jobs with little opportunity for advancement.

DON'T MISS the next UFWA forum on April 24 at 4:40 in South Building Auditorium.

## EMPLOYEES OF CONSUMERS' COUNSEL DIVISION WIN PAY INCREASES THROUGH UNION

Setting the pace for the entire Department, UFWA members of the Consumers' Counsel Division have shown just what a Union can do when it gets going.

A campaign to win pay increases for employees of the Division has been so successful that already 11 raises have come through and there is every indication that there are lots more to come!

It all started when the Union members learned that pay increases were planned for higher-paid employees, and went to Mr. Montgomery, the Division head, to

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### NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 24, 8 p m

532 - 17 St. N. W.



### THE ORGANIZER

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President.....Simon Rottenberg  
Vice-Pres.....Daniel Sullivan  
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### "WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE COLOR OR CREED"

How firmly the people of Washington believe in that great American principle of "equal opportunity for all without regard to race, color or creed" was shown on Easter Sunday when 75,000 Washingtonians assembled to hear and pay tribute to a Negro woman - Marian Anderson.

On that day Miss Anderson was more than a great concert artist. When she stood on the steps of Lincoln's shrine, she stood before the entire country as a symbol of social justice and the people of Washington who assembled to hear her were paying homage to that symbol.

For us in Agriculture, the Anderson triumph brings home the fact that there is a big job to be done. We must end every manifestation of discrimination against Negroes in our Department. We must end once and for all the

un-American practice by which Negroes, regardless of qualifications are banned in most Bureaus from "desk jobs." We must see to it that the will of the overwhelming majority of employees from the Secretary down, who subscribe to the principles of fairness and tolerance, is not thwarted by a small minority whose prejudices blind them to such principles. In so doing we shall make our Department worthy of its place in the Government of a great democracy.

### PROBATIONARY PERIOD NOT TO BE EXTENDED

Replying to an inquiry addressed to him by the Union, Personnel Director Hendrickson announced that the Department has recommended to the Civil Service commission that the length of the probationary period for new employees in salary brackets under \$2000 should remain at 6 months.

The Executive Order of June 24, 1938 had opened the way for extending the probationary period to one year, but the Union in the letter to Mr. Hendrickson stressed the hardship involved in the cases of low paid employees who would be barred from any possible salary increases or promotions during this period.

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UNION WINS MAJORITY REPORT  
OF APPEALS BOARD  
IN RECLASSIFICATION CASE

A majority of the appeals board set up under Secretary's Memorandum 753 to investigate a request for reclassification of a messenger in the Eastern District office of Food and Drug Administration has reported that the messenger should be reclassified to CAF-1 and be given promotion to the first CAF-2 vacancy occurring for which he is qualified.

Mr. John Schricker, of Local 2, represented this New York employee on the appeals board which was set up when the employee was unable to receive a satisfactory answer to his reclassification request from the Chief of the Food and Drug Administration. After a careful investigation, Mr. Schricker and Mr. Roy Headley, third member of the board, came to the conclusion that reclassification to CAF-1 was merited. Mr. George P. Larrick, representing Food and Drug Administration, held to the Bureau's original position that the position should not be reclassified and will submit a minority report.

This puts the issue squarely before the Food and Drug Administration of whether it will act in accordance with the majority decision of the Board.

R. M. EVANS DISCUSSES PROGRAM  
OF AAA AT UNION FORUM

Those employees who attended the second of the Union sponsored series of forums in the Department Auditorium on April 10 were rewarded by a first hand account of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program by R. M. Evans, the man who administers that program.

Speaking in an informal manner and interspersing his remarks with frequent snatches of humorous reminiscences, Mr. Evans told how the program of his administration developed, and why it became necessary for the Federal Government to step in to aid the farmers of America to earn a living. He discussed the objections to the program which were raised by many farmers, too long accustomed to the ways of individualism to participate easily in a program of cooperative effort. He told how these objections were slowly overcome by patiently explaining to farmers the purposes of the program and educating them to the modern needs of their industry.

Mr. Evans stressed the mutual dependence of the farm and city worker and showed how aid to farmers helped those in the city by creating the purchasing power

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to buy the goods and services which city industries offered. A 15 minute discussion period at the end of Mr. Evans' lecture, gave those who were present an opportunity to ask their own questions regarding the program.

Dr. W. W. Alexander, Administrator of the Farm Security Administration will lead the next forum discussion on Monday, April 24, at 4:40, in the South Building Auditorium. Dr. Alexander's subject will be "Restoring Farm Security."

Those who have not attended the series thus far are urged not to miss the four remaining lectures. They afford an unexcelled opportunity for employees to get the inside story of what the Department is doing - directly from the people responsible for what is going on.

MEMBERSHIP BLANK

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out and send by chain envelope to John A. Schricker Room 3630 South Building.

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ask for similar increases for employees earning less than \$2000 a year who had 2 years service. These employees are now counting the results in their pay checks.

Not satisfied with results in pay increases alone, these Union members have set out to obtain improved conditions of work all along the line. Better lighting, better ventilation, and better space arrangements are in the offing for all the employees of the Division through their efforts.

In addition to all this, the Union has arranged with Mr. Montgomery for a series of staff meetings on office time to inform all employees of the plan and purpose of the work they do for the Consumers' Counsel.

And while all this was going on, 15 new people were enrolled as UFWA members in this Division. It looks like the rest of the Department will have to go some to catch up with these people. But there is no doubt that what they have done, others can do -  
THROUGH THEIR UNION.

GOT A PROBLEM? Bring it to the Adjustment Committee. Meets every Thursday at 4:40 in Room 5208 South Building.